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**Member Shelter Programs**

The Umbrella  
Ansonia, CT

The Center for Women & Families  
Bridgeport, CT

Women's Center  
Danbury, CT

United Services, Inc.  
Domestic Violence Programs  
Dayville, CT

Network Against Domestic Abuse  
Enfield, CT

Greenwich YWCA  
Domestic Abuse Service  
Greenwich, CT

Interval House  
Hartford, CT

Menden-Wallingford Chrysalis  
Meriden, CT

New Horizons  
Middletown, CT

Prudence Crandall Center  
New Britain, CT

Domestic Violence Services  
New Haven, CT

Women's Center of SE CT  
New London, CT

Domestic Violence Crisis Center  
Norwalk, CT

Women's Support Services  
Sharon, CT

Domestic Violence Crisis Center  
Stamford, CT

Susan B. Anthony Project  
 Torrington, CT

Safe Haven  
Waterbury, CT

United Services, Inc.  
Domestic Violence Programs  
Willimantic, CT

To: Education Committee

From: Linda Blozie, Director of Public Affairs

Date: February 23, 2009

Re: HB 6494 ACC Teen Dating Violence Education

Good afternoon, Senator Gaffey, Representative Fleischmann and members of the Education Committee. My name is Linda Blozie and I am the Director of Public Affairs for the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence. Thank you for hearing my remarks about House Bill 6494, An Act Concerning Teen Dating Violence.

The Coalition is a membership organization whose purpose is to change the social conditions beliefs, and social actions that perpetuate abuse against victims of domestic violence. One of the ways we work to achieve our mission is through training and education. The earlier we can teach young people about dating violence, the greater the chance that they won't find themselves as victims or perpetrators.



The prevalence of teen dating violence and abuse is a serious problem that must be confronted. I want all teenagers to be taught about healthy relationships, to learn how to recognize the signs of abuse, and know where to get help if they are in an abusive relationship.

So today I am here to support HB 6494. But before I move further, I would like to ask for one change, which includes CCADV and its member programs in the education planning process. I have attached our proposed changes to my testimony. Many of our domestic violence programs have long established relationships in our middle and high schools across the state. They present time tested, evidence based curriculum around healthy relationships and teen dating violence. You will or have already heard from a few of those programs today. Together, we can take a stand to protect our children and through education, break the cycle of domestic violence.

Thank you.



Substitute Language for House Bill 6494: An Act Concerning Teen Dating Violence

As proposed by the Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Section 1. Subsection (a) of section 10-16b of the general statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2009*):

(a) In the public schools the program of instruction offered shall include at least the following subject matter, as taught by legally qualified teachers, the arts; career education; consumer education; health and safety, including, but not limited to, human growth and development, nutrition, first aid, disease prevention, community and consumer health, physical, mental and emotional health, including youth suicide prevention, substance abuse prevention, teen dating violence, safety, which may include the dangers of gang membership, and accident prevention; language arts, including reading, writing, grammar, speaking and spelling; mathematics; physical education; science; social studies, including, but not limited to, citizenship, economics, geography, government and history; and in addition, on at least the secondary level, one or more foreign languages and vocational education. For purposes of this subsection, the development of teen dating violence subject matter must be coordinated with domestic violence programs serving victims. For purposes of this subsection, language arts may include American sign language or signed English, provided such subject matter is taught by a qualified instructor under the supervision of a teacher who holds a certificate issued by the State Board of Education. For purposes of this subsection, the "arts" means any form of visual or performing arts, which may include, but not be limited to, dance, music, art and theatre.